

NEW YORK

GUARDING AMERICA,
DEFENDING FREEDOM

The **AIR NATIONAL GUARD**

Skibird



Magazine of the 109th Airlift Wing, Stratton Air National Guard Base, Scotia, N.Y.

Crews head for South Pole

ODF begins its 21st season



Fall 2009

Strong family programs

By Col. John Russo
109th Mission Support Group commander

I recently read that Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz and Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Roy had declared July 2009 — July 2010 the “Year of the Family.” The article stated this initiative would place increased focus on the commitment to, and development and evaluation of, programs that support the entire Air Force family — and by family he meant all married and single Airmen; parents, spouses and children; AF civilians; and retirees.

General Schwartz noted that his intent was to focus on what was going well, and identify what could be improved, with how the Air Force supports its “family.” This initiative will focus on four main topics: health and wellness; Airmen and family support; education, development and employment; and family housing.

It strikes me that all these topics touch Family Programs in one way or another — and just like the Air Force and the Guard, our Family Programs has undergone radical changes since 9/11. Gone are the days when we’d joke, “If the military wanted you to have a family, they would issue you one,” and Family Support Personnel (i.e. Wing Family Program Coordinators) were looked upon as “children’s party planners.”

All senior leaders now recognize the importance of supporting military members and their families through all stages of their service (e.g. enlistment, promotion,

deployments, TDYs, and retirement) and all stages of personal and family life (e.g. being single, marriage, children, aging, caring for family members, etc.).

So how can we apply this to evaluating and improving how we support Airmen and families at the 109th? How do we make this the 109th “Year of the Family?” How do we strengthen and improve how we support our Airmen and families?

What is the leadership’s responsibility to you and your family? Currently, we are looking into best practice models to see how we can develop a volunteer group that will provide the base consistent and visible volunteer support.

Gone are the days when it was enough to say we have volunteers on paper who we can call when we need something. It is our responsibility to provide whatever support is necessary to facilitate the development of a strong volunteer group focused on supporting all 109th Members and families. It’s our responsibility to find and implement the program supports that you are wanting ... and to be responsive in how quickly we get those things in place for you.

So what responsibility do you and your families have in all of this? I think the responsibility is twofold. First, many new programs have been established that offer support and information for all stages of civilian and military life. Do you know where to go for information regarding coping with an upcoming deployment? How about your children’s military education or your employment benefits? What about the



File photo

latest ANG news and how that may impact our unit? Are you aware of programs to help with investing and retirement after the Air Guard?

And secondly, volunteering with the base Family Programs Office to develop a strong Volunteer Group that can support you and your family during times of trouble, transition, or just during everyday life, and yes, for planning the children’s parties and events.

It is our goal to use the “Year of the Family” as a starting point for a strong program at the 109th — one that leads our base into the future. But to do this, we need you. What is working? What isn’t? What would you like to see changed? How would you like it changed? What have you heard is working well in other units? With your feedback and input we can truly make this the 109th Year of the Family.

Chaplain Services

Catholic Service
UTA Sunday 7:45 a.m.
Aeromedical Briefing Room

Protestant Service
UTA Sunday 7:45 a.m.
Aircrew Briefing Room

109th Airlift Wing

Commander
Col. Anthony German
Vice Commander
Col. Timothy LaBarge

The Skibird

Fall 2009
Volume 47, No. 4

Editorial Staff
Maj. Jody Ankabrandt
Chief of Public Affairs
Capt. Shane Gernand
Public Affairs Deputy
Master Sgt. Willie Gizara
Public Affairs Manager
Master Sgt. Christine Wood
Base Videographer/Photographer
Tech. Sgt. Catharine Schmidt
Editor, The Skibird
Airman 1st Class Ben German
Base Photographer

The Skibird
1 ANG Road, Scotia, NY 12302-9752;
PHONE: (518) 344-2423/2396
DSN: 344-2423/2396, FAX:344-2331
EMAIL: 109AW.Public.Affairs@ang.af.mil

This funded Air Force publication is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Military services. Contents of *The Skibird* are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.

The editorial content is edited, prepared, and provided by the Public Affairs Office of the 109th Airlift Wing. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

DEADLINE NOTICE: All items for *The Skibird* must be received in the Public Affairs Office no later than the beginning of the first UTA of each quarter. Address changes for individuals not in the 109AW should be directed to: 109AW/PA, 1 Air National Guard Road, Scotia, New York 12302-9752 or by phone at (518) 344-2423/2396 or DSN: 344-2423/2396.

The Skibird

FALL 2009
VOLUME 47, No. 4

Inside

Officials OK green fleece	6
Air Force News	
Blues on Mondays	7
Public Affairs Office	
New squadron activated	8
By Tech. Sgt. Catharine Schmidt	
139th AS changes command	9
Photos by Airman 1st Class Ben German	
Guard makes dream a reality	10-11
By Tech. Sgt. Catharine Schmidt	
Guard prepares for flu season	13
National Guard Bureau	

Plus:

Deployed News	5
Legal Notes	9
Air Force News	14-15
Alumni News	16
Firehouse Facts	17
Family Programs	18
Promotions & Awards	19

On the cover:
An LC-130 prepares to take off Oct. 21, headed for Antarctica. The plane was the first to leave this year to support the wing’s annual support for Operation Deep Freeze. See Page 4 for more coverage. (Photo by Master Sgt. Willie Gizara)

ODF season kicks off for 109th AW

Story by Tech. Sgt. Catharine Schmidt
Photos by Master Sgt. Willie Gizara
Public Affairs

The New York Air National Guard’s 109th Airlift Wing kicked off its 21st year of support for American Antarctic research Oct. 21, as two ski-equipped C-130s roared off the runway here bound for the South Pole.

“Today we’re taking one of the first planes down to Antarctica,” said Lt. Col. George Alston, aircraft commander. “We will fly to California then to Hawaii then to Pago Pago where the recent tsunami was. From there, we’ll go to New Zealand, and from there to Antarctica where we’ll start the Operation Deep Freeze season.”

“This Operation Deep Freeze season will see us returning to a mission count and ops tempo that we are more accustomed to versus the reduced mission count that we put in place last year as a cost savings measure,” said Col. Timothy LaBarge, 109th Airlift Wing vice commander.

The 109th’s ski-equipped LC-130s will be flying in support of National Science Foundation research across the Antarctic, as part of Operation Deep Freeze, the U.S. Military’s logistical support for Antarctic research. This season brings a lot of firsts for the crews. The early deploying aircraft will support the National Science Foundation’s Western Antarctic Ice Sheet Divide Ice Core project. This project involves drilling ice cores to establish a climate and greenhouse gas history for the southern hemisphere.

The 109th will also support the Australians Casey Antarctic Station on Wilke Island for the first time. One aircraft was carrying a crevasse detection radar that will be used in Antarctica for the first time.

“We’re hoping that with the radar is a faster turnaround in the amount of time to check on a site,” said Capt. Daniel Marchegiani, co-pilot. “The radar will determine where the crevasses are and we’ll be able to put scientists into that location much sooner than having to wait a whole year. Safety is always the first and most important thing. Being able to see where these things are before we touch down on



Second Lt. Christine Reape, a navigator, and Senior Master Sgt. Mark Olena, a flight engineer, walk out to the LC-130 Hercules that will take off for Antarctica in support of Operation Deep Freeze.



An LC-130 prepares to take off Oct. 21, headed for Antarctica. The plane was the first to leave this year to support the wing’s annual support for Operation Deep Freeze.

the snow or before we even attempt to try and get into a different area of the continent is extremely paramount to what we do.”

And according to Maj. Joseph DeConno, chief of Antarctic Operations, in the middle of the season, crews will be going from using two runways to single-airfield operations.

“It’s an aggressive schedule where we’re testing a new concept of single-airfield operations, which we haven’t done in previous seasons,” he said. “The second half of the season, we’re moving all operations out to Pegasus Field for the first time and not using Willie Field. We’re optimistic we’ll do it safely and crews, as usual, will do their

best to get the job done.”

“Single runway operations at Pegasus and increased operations at some of the remote research stations will create both challenges and opportunities, and that is what keeps this annual deployment fun and interesting,” Colonel LaBarge said.

The 109th Airlift Wing, the only unit in the United States military equipped with ski landing gear, has provided airlift support for the National Science Foundation’s South Pole research since 1988. Since 1999 the unit has been the sole provided of this type of airlift to the National Science Foundation and United States Antarctic research efforts.

The Skibird

Total-force team airdrops 10-ton artillery load

By Staff Sgt. J.G. Buzanowski
U.S. Air Forces Central combat camera team

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan (AFNS) — A team of Bagram Airfield Airmen airdropped an M198 artillery piece to an Army unit in a remote Eastern-part of Afghanistan Aug. 8.

New York, Ohio and Missouri Air Guard members joined with reservists and active-duty Airmen to form the total-force aircrew that loaded and delivered the 155 mm Howitzer that weighed more than 10 tons onto a C-130 Hercules from the Missouri Air National Guard.

“Five good chutes, that’s all we could ask for,” said Senior Master Sgt. Kevin Gifford, a joint airdrop inspector from the New York ANG. “It means the Army loaders did their job right and we did our job right and everything went according to plan.”

Sergeant Gifford was onboard the C-130 to ensure the enormous cargo pallet would exit the aircraft properly and safely. He and the loadmasters — Missouri Air National Guard members Staff Sgt. Ed Huff and Master Sgt. Dennis Mowry — loaded the Howitzer from one location and airdropped it to the crew waiting below.

“Anything the guys on the ground need to do their job we get to them — beans, bullets and sometimes artillery pieces,” said Sergeant Mowry, a 34-year Air Force



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael B. Keller

Senior Master Sgt. Kevin Gifford loads a 10-ton pallet aboard a C-130 Hercules Aug. 8 at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. Sergeant Gifford and an Army and Air Force aircrew from the 774th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron delivered an M198 howitzer artillery piece to a forward operating base in Afghanistan. The 36-foot long cannon will give troops the ability to send high-explosive shells at insurgents threatening the peace and security of the Paktika Province. Sergeant Gifford is assigned to the 109th Airlift Wing.

veteran. “This was just our way of helping out in the war. Now that the Soldiers have that Howitzer, they have something bigger to shoot back with.”

The crew of the 36-foot long cannon will have the ability to send high-explosive shells at insurgents threatening the peace and security of the Paktika Province.

Airlift is an essential part of operations in Afghanistan, where the mountainous region can delay or even prevent delivery convoys,

said Lt. Col. Dave Koltermann, the 774th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron commander.

“Airlift gives us the ability to get cargo anywhere on the planet,” said Colonel Koltermann, a New York Air National Guard member. “It gets troops off the roads and rather than risking a convoy, we can fly cargo anywhere it needs to go. This was a joint effort by the Army and Air Force with total force assets all working seamlessly to help the troops on the ground.”

Welcome home!



Photo by Master Sgt. Willie Gizara

The LC-130 crew returning home from a 30-day tour in Afghanistan returns to Stratton Air National Guard Base on Sept. 15.

Fall 2009



Photo by Master Sgt. Willie Gizara

Master Sgt. Ed Holub is welcomed home from a tour in Afghanistan by his children Sept. 15 at Stratton Air National Guard Base.

Officials release fleece wear policy

By Brad Jessmer
Air Force Uniform Office Public Affairs

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio (AFNS) — The 98th Air Force Virtual Uniform Board released a policy message here Oct. 9 for wearing the new Air Force sage green fleece as an outer garment for the airman battle uniform.

According to the message,

the sage green fleece may only be worn over the ABU top, and is not authorized to be worn solely over a T-shirt, thermal underwear and similar undergarments, when worn as an outer garment.

According to the message signed by Lt. Gen. Richard Y. Newton III, deputy chief of staff for Manpower and Personnel at,

Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, authorized wear of the sage green fleece requires the following:

- A Velcro ABU print last name tape with dark blue block lettering, centered between the zipper and sleeve seam on the wearer's right chest,
- A Velcro ABU print U.S. Air Force tape with dark blue block lettering, adjacent to the name tape and centered between the zipper and sleeve seam on the wearers left chest,
- A Velcro subdued cloth rank with a solid sage green background, flushed and centered above the last name tape on the wearer's right chest,
- The fleece must remain zipped no lower than halfway between the name tape and the collar,
- The collar must be folded over and resting on the shoulder, chest and back when the zipper is not

completely zipped,

- The bottom length of the fleece must be as close to length of ABU top as possible,
- The sleeves must be worn down at all times, and
- The fleece must be kept in a neat, serviceable and professional appearance at all times.

Items authorized for wear with the fleece include black or sage green leather, suede or knit gloves, black or sage green watch caps, black scarves that are tucked in, and black ear muffs.

The uniform board has authorized wear of the sage green fleece without name tapes and rank as an outer garment until Oct 1, 2010.

Both the black and the green fleece without tapes and rank may be worn as a liner to the all-purpose environmental clothing system, or APECS. The black fleece will phase-out Oct 1, 2010.

New sage green fleece outer garments will be made available first to deployed Airmen.

Tuition Assistance forms due

All personnel who will be using the New York State Tuition Assistance Benefit for the Spring 2010 semester must submit the required application/paperwork by the deadline of Dec. 1.

The checklist for this process can be picked up in the Retention Office and can also be found on the Y drive in the NYSTA folder. In the Y Drive folder you will also find the NEW electronic application which Headquarters

is now requiring — file entitled Electronic Application. This electronic application must be completely filled out and e-mailed to jim.reeves2@us.army.mil and cc'd to mark.rising@ang.af.mil.

The electronic applications must be e-mailed as stated above and all paperwork must be submitted to the Retention Office located on the second floor of Building One.



U.S. Army photo by Eric Durr

With a little help...

Airman 1st Class Josh Myers gives advice and encouragement to Boy Scout Eric Blair as he negotiates a climbing wall at the Twin Rivers Council, Boy Scouts of America Camporee held Sept. 25-27 in Albany. The New York National Guard Counterdrug Task Force brought its climbing wall to the Scout's event on Sept. 26 and also ran a confidence course. Survival experts from the 109th Airlift Wing and a re-enactor from the New York Military History Institute, also provided demonstrations for the Scouts.

Blues required to be worn on Mondays

In a memo to all 109th Airlift Wing personnel dated Oct. 15, 2009, Col. Anthony P. German wrote: "General Norton A. Schwartz, USAF Chief of Staff, released a policy letter, dated 4 Sep 08 requiring the wear of the Air Force Blue Uniform on Mondays.

"Effective 9 Nov 09, members of the 109th Airlift Wing are required to wear their blues on Mondays. Group and unit commanders, first sergeants and supervisors have been briefed on compliance and the limited exceptions to this policy. NOTE: This policy does NOT include Antarctica or Greenland."

The Retail Sales office issued some reminders/changes regarding the Blues uniform:

Blue Pullover Sweater: Effective immediately, there is no requirement for the silver name tag. There is a 50 percent wool and 50 percent polyester version now available. Phase out for the 100 percent wool sweater is Oct. 1, 2010. Wearing a tie with the sweater is optional. Officers and senior NCOs wear shoulder epaulets and all others wear the metal rank on the shoulder. The sweaters are NOT

available for purchase at the Retail Sales store.

Blue Cardigan Sweater: Same rules as the Blue Pullover Sweater.

Name tags: Silver one to wear with the service coat and the blue plastic type is worn with the blue shirts.

Blue Shirts: The long sleeve shirt requires a tie to be worn unless you are wearing the sweater. Both the long and short sleeve shirts must have the smaller blue stripes sewn on the sleeves (no more epaulets for senior NCOs). The white crew-neck style T-shirt is authorized ONLY when wearing closed collar service and dress uniforms.

Short Blue Jacket: Effective Jan. 1, 2010, you must have the large blue stripes sewn on the sleeves (no more metal rank pins for the collar). It is optional to have the Air Force symbol embroidered on the front (at member's expense).

Service Coat: Silver name tag is to be worn on outside. U.S. pins with circles for enlisted and without the circle for officers.

For more information on dress and appearance regulations, refer to AFI 36-2903.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Kerry Jackson

Rest stop

Tech. Sgt. David Aymat refuels an LC-130 Hercules at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, on Oct. 28 in preparation for a flight to Antarctica. Sergeant Aymat and the rest of his LC-130 aircrew stopped at Hickam while en route to Antarctica to support Operation Deep Freeze, the Department of Defense's logistical support to U.S. research activities at the southernmost continent. Sergeant Aymat is an LC-130 crew chief assigned to the 109th Airlift Wing



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Pedro Negron

Mapping it out for students

Lt. Col. Matthew LeClair looks at the work 109th Airlift Wing volunteers did on the playground at Yates Elementary School in Schenectady. Volunteers painted a map and the 109th Airlift Wing logo on the school's playground. Numerous Airmen have been mentoring students at the school throughout the year.

Deadline Notice

Articles for the next issue of the Skibird are due by Jan. 10.



New squadron activated

LeClair takes command of Force Support Squadron

By Tech. Sgt. Catharine Schmidt
Public Affairs

Lt. Col. Matthew LeClair assumed command of the newly formed Force Support Squadron during a ceremony here Sept. 13.

The Force Support Squadron was established to combine the Military Personnel Flight and the Services Flight. With that, the 109th Services Flight was deactivated and under the Force Support Squadron, is now the Services Sustainment Flight.

The merger here has been in the works since April. The squadron was officially activated Sept. 1.

For Colonel LeClair, this will be his first command position, and he said he's looking forward to leading the new squadron.

"Being a brand new squadron, I think it's a unique challenge as my first command," he said. "There will always be challenges that come with change, and this is a change for the services folks as well as the manpower

and personnel flight; but with challenges there's always opportunities."

Colonel LeClair thinks it's important to still keep the motivation and dedication that the MPF and SVF have always had, and strive to provide excellent customer service to the base population.

"We'd like to continue to serve the entire 109th Airlift Wing in the tasks that we are assigned, but also as a squadron we'd like to build cohesiveness and bring people together from the two separate organizations."

Along with this being Colonel LeClair's first command position, being away from the Ops world is also something new.

"There's certainly a lot of new acronyms (and) terminology (to learn)," he said. "But the people have been wonderful and very, very helpful. Everybody's enthusiastic and hard working. It's just a new group of people that are enthusiastic and hard working, just like the Ops folks in their mission."

"The folks in the MPF and the Services Flights even prior to the unified Force Support Squadron have truly shown their



Photo by Airman 1st Class Ben German

Col. John Russo, 109th Mission Support Group commander, hands command of the newly formed 109th Force Support Squadron over to Lt. Col. Matthew LeClair on Sept. 13.

dedication to service," Colonel LeClair continued. "Work and professionalism really showed since the idea of forming the Force Support Squadron was made in April 2009. It's really motivated everybody."



Photo by Airman 1st Class Ben German

Staff Sgt. Anna Franklin helps Capt. Sharon Weinlein, who works at the clinic, with some personnel issues. Sergeant Franklin is assigned to the newly formed Force Support Squadron.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Ben German

Staff Sgt. Louise Wilson prepares pizza as Staff Sgt. Jessica Mattingley walks by during drill weekend. The new Services Sustainment Flight now falls under the Force Support Squadron.

139th AS gains new commander



Photo by Airman 1st Class Ben German

(Above) Col. Gary James, 109th Operations Group commander, transfers command of the 139th Airlift Squadron from Lt. Col. David Koltermann to Lt. Col. Michael Steindl during a change of command ceremony Oct. 4. (Right) Lt. Col. Michael Steindl talks to the crowd after taking command of the 139th Airlift Squadron during a ceremony Oct. 4.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Ben German

Legal Notes

Living will, health care proxy... do you need one?

By Tech. Sgt. Amanda Blodgett
109th JAG paralegal

A common question that the 109th Airlift Wing Legal office gets when a member comes in to fill out a will worksheet is: What is the difference between a living will and health care proxy, and do I need one?

They are two important documents written in advance of a serious illness or accident that explain your choices on medical treatment.

A Living Will is a document that is written to instruct your physician to withhold or withdraw any life-sustaining procures in the event that you become terminally ill, are in a coma, or are in a

vegetative state with no reasonable likelihood of recovery. If this is what you want, making a living will is beneficial because it gives specific instructions to your physician and your health care proxy, and prevents your family from having to make a painful decision.

A health care proxy is a document in which an individual appoints someone whom he or she trusts to make medical treatment decisions for them in the event he/she loses the ability to decide for themselves. This trusted individual (called an agent or proxy) is appointed by you to make sure that health care providers are following your wishes, which includes following the provisions in your living will, if you have one.

Applebee's honors vets

On Nov. 11, Veterans Day, Applebee's will be offering all U.S. veterans and active duty military personnel (including Reserve and National Guard) a free entree from a selection of six, including traditional sides, at all domestic Applebee's restaurants. For more information, go to www.applebees.com and click on "Veterans Day."

Guard makes dream a reality for 9-year-old

Story by Tech. Sgt. Catharine Schmidt
Photos by Master Sgt. Willie Gizara
Public Affairs

On Oct. 6, Jacob Kaminski enlisted in the Army, got promoted to sergeant, crossed over to the Blue as a second lieutenant and piloted an LC-130 Hercules. It's a feat that would take the rest of us years to accomplish; but for 9-year-old Jacob, it was all in a day's work.

Jacob suffers from acute lymphoblastic leukemia, and one of his dreams is to be a Soldier for a Day. Thanks to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Army Staff Sgt. Matthew Starr, and Family Readiness Group coordinator Julie Rutledge that dream became reality. Jacob thought he was going to a routine doctor appointment, but instead he showed up at DMNA (Division of Military and Naval Affairs) as the Army's newest recruit.

"His mother said his jaw hit the ground when (they) pulled up to the front gate here at DMNA," said Sergeant Starr, the TAG's enlisted aide at DMNA in Latham. "He had no idea he was going to get his dream. ... I think it took him a little while to come out of shock and realize what he was experiencing."

Jacob spent the day, in uniform, with the Army checking out military vehicles, receiving his dog tags during an Army mission and got to sit in a black hawk helicopter. His next stop was the 109th Airlift Wing, where a commission, a flight suit and an LC-130 awaited him.

Members of the 109th Airlift Wing put Jacob right to work with his crew, that included Lt. Col. George Alston, aircraft commander; 1st Lts. James Nicholson and Brandon Caldwell, co-pilots; Chief Master Sgt. Don Morrell, flight engineer; and Tech. Sgt. Jason Bull, loadmaster. After he was in his flight suit, Master Sgt. Neil Wood and Senior Airman Eric



Jacob Kaminski puts on his aircrew gear before his mock LC-130 mission. Jacob, 9, came to the base Oct. 6 to fulfill his dream of being a soldier for a day. After spending the day with the Army, he came to the base to see what it was like to be a pilot with the 109th Airlift Wing. Jacob has been diagnosed with leukemia.



Lt. Col. George Alston oversees as Jacob Kaminski signs his orders for a mock LC-130 mission. Jacob, 9, came to the base Oct. 6 to fulfill his dream of being a soldier for a day. After spending the day with the Army, he came to the base to see what it was like to be a pilot with the 109th Airlift Wing. Jacob has been diagnosed with leukemia.

Canstraro, of Life Support, brought Jacob his mock aircrew ensemble. It was then on to the flight planning, where Jacob even signed the orders for his mission. Then it was off to the pilot briefing room and finally out to the flightline to check out the ski-equipped aircraft he would be piloting.

"Crew Chief Staff Sgt. Matthew Begin went above and beyond preparing the aircraft. He truly had the aircraft in award-winning condition," Chief Morrell said. "In addition to loading ATO bottles, he ensured that Jacob's name was listed on the side of the aircraft."

After completing a spot-check, Jacob sat behind the controls of the aircraft and went through the checklist just like every pilot does — down to flipping the switch to turn on Engine No. 1 and then Engine No. 2.

"Jacob proved to be a very intelligent young man," Chief Morrell said. "Asking questions and calling checklists, he finished his aircraft visit by pointing out fuel dripping out an engine drain mast that normally occurs on normal engine shutdown. He just wanted to make sure everything was OK."

Soon after, Jon Driscoll, Stratton Fire Department captain, picked up Jacob in a base fire truck and brought him over to the Naval Reserve facility across the flightline.

"He made sure that Jacob's time in the crash vehicle was truly memorable," Chief Morrell said. Master Sgt. John Rayome also helped out by providing transportation in a personable professionalism manner as only he can do, the chief said.

It was a busy day for Jacob, and one he had dreamed of for a long time.

"Everywhere we went, the Soldiers and Airmen went above and beyond even my wildest imagination," Sergeant Starr said. "I think it was really humbling to (Jacob) and his family. Their reactions to it all made everyone involved feel really great inside for their part."

All in all, everyone deemed Jacob's day a huge success.

"I cannot count the amount of times I got to see his face light up with the hugest smile I have ever seen," Sergeant Starr said. "The day was a tremendous success, thanks in part to all the Soldiers and Airmen who took it above and beyond what would have been expected."

"As always, members of (the 109th Airlift Wing) gave 200 percent of what would have been considered great," Sergeant Starr said.

According to a DMNA press release,



Chief Master Sgt. Don Morrell walks Jacob Kaminski out to the LC-130 he would be piloting. Jacob, 9, came to the base to see what it would be like to be a pilot with the 109th Airlift Wing.

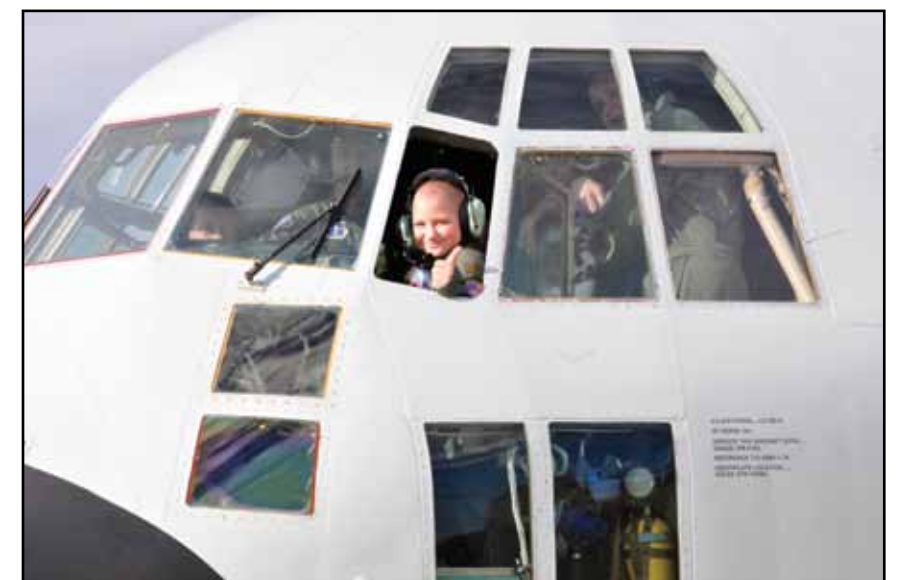


Chief Master Sgt. Don Morrell shows Jacob Kaminski his name on the LC-130 aircraft. Jacob, 9, came to the base Oct. 6 to fulfill his dream of being a soldier for a day. After spending the day with the Army, he came to the base to see what it was like to be a pilot with the 109th Airlift Wing. Jacob has been diagnosed with leukemia.

Theresa Petrone, the Campaign Manager from the Upstate New York/Vermont Chapter of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, met Sergeant Starr, a marathon runner, at a fundraising run in May.

"In August, she (Petrone) approached me about Jake, who was the Chapter's Boy of the Year, and asked if I would be able to assist in any way to make Jake's dream of being a 'Soldier for a Day' a reality," Starr said. "I immediately presented the idea to the Chief of Staff, and here we are!"

Jacob was born in 2000, and his battle with cancer began in May of 2004 at only 4 years old. Months later he was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia and endured three and a half years of chemotherapy, spinal taps and a lot of time in the hospital. He went into remission in August of 2007, but in December of 2008, his leukemia had returned. One week after his ninth birthday, Jacob started chemotherapy once again. You can learn more about Jacob at www.jakeswar.com



Jacob Kaminski gives the thumbs-up sign out of the cockpit after starting up the engine on an LC-130 Hercules. Jacob, 9, came to the base Oct. 6 to fulfill his dream of being a soldier for a day. After spending the day with the Army, he came to the base to see what it was like to be a pilot with the 109th Airlift Wing. Jacob has been diagnosed with leukemia.



Join the 109th Family Support Group for a

FALL FESTIVAL



Sunday, Nov. 15th at 1 p.m.

Please RSVP by Nov. 13th

(so we have enough cider and doughnuts)

beverly.keating@ang.af.mil / 344-2357

Hayrides

**See doughnuts
being made**

Riverview Orchards

660 Riverview Road — Rexford

**See inside a
live beehive**

**Cider &
doughnuts**



In case of bad weather, event will be canceled



The Skibird

Health News

Guardmembers urged to prepare for flu season

By Army Sgt. 1st Class Jon Soucy
National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va — Army and Air National Guard members are scheduled to receive vaccinations against the seasonal flu and the H1N1 flu virus beginning in early November, National Guard Bureau officials recently confirmed.

The exact date that Guard members will receive the H1N1 vaccine will be dictated by the Department of Defense or their state's plan for distributing the vaccine.

"The (Center for Disease Control) is really the lead on distributing the vaccine through the public health system and every state has their own plan on how they are going to set it up," said Army Capt. Lisa Burg, a medical plans officer with the National Guard Bureau's Joint Surgeon's Office. "Most National Guard Soldiers and Airmen are basically in the plan for the state they are in."

However, that may change in the near future, because there is "an increasing likelihood DoD will provide the vaccine to cover the entire Army Guard, regardless of status," said Col. Rob Brown, the chief surgeon of the Army National Guard.

Guardmembers on active duty or Title 10 orders are already scheduled to receive the vaccination through their host military treatment facility, said Air Force Maj. James Coker of the Air National Guard's Surgeon General's office.

Both groups will receive the vaccinations in accordance with prioritization guidelines set forth by the DoD and the CDC.

The DoD priority list is still being worked on, said Coker.

"Any place where we take a lot of people, squash them all together and get them nice and close and put them under stressful conditions will get the vaccine first," said Army Lt. Col. (Dr.) Wayne Hachey, the director of preventive medicine for DoD health affairs.

The National Guard, however, will not distribute the H1N1 vaccine on its own.

"The National Guard will not obtain any of it directly ... unless it is specific to their state and it's in their state plan," said Burg.

Some states have already started providing

Fall 2009



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jon Soucy

Gen. Craig R. McKinley, chief, National Guard Bureau, receives his seasonal flu shot from Tech Sgt. Angela Archer at The Pentagon on Sept. 25. "Protect yourself, your family, & your coworkers and get yours soon," he said, after receiving it.

the seasonal flu vaccines to Guardmembers, said Brown, who emphasized its importance.

"Get it now," he said. "It's required. Don't forget — unless your medical doctor says otherwise."

Guardmembers can take additional steps to protect themselves from both the seasonal flu and the H1N1 flu virus, such as covering their nose and mouth when sneezing or coughing, frequent hand washing and limiting contact with those who are sick.

Also, eating a healthy diet and getting plenty of sleep and exercise are other ways to help protect against the flu.

"All the things that your mom always told you to do," said Brown. "It sounds a little bit corny, but it works. It really works."

Guardmembers have been directed to stay at home at least 24 hours after experiencing fevers or any flu-like symptoms.

"If you feel the least bit sick, you're running a fever or have flu-like symptoms, stay at home," said Brown. "If the symptoms continue or worsen, go see your doctor or your primary care manager."

According to the CDC, the signs and symptoms of H1N1 are very similar to those of the seasonal flu and can include fever,

cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue and may include diarrhea and vomiting.

You should seek emergency care if you have difficulty breathing, shortness of breath, bluish skin color, pain or pressure in the chest or abdomen, sudden dizziness, confusion or severe or persistent vomiting.

So, vaccination is important to thwart both of these viruses.

"It's important, because we're trying to decrease the risk of spreading it as well," said Burg. "Especially when you have Soldiers with families. We want to decrease the risk of it being spread and that's the biggest part."

Guardmembers should make plans to care for sick household members or for children if schools dismiss students or child care programs close.

"You owe it to yourself, your family and your fellow Soldier to get your flu vaccinations, seasonal and H1N1," Brown said. "A healthy team is a winning team!"

Guardmembers are encouraged to contact their chain of command or their state medical command for more information on vaccinations against H1N1 and the seasonal flu.

President Obama signs Defense Authorization Act

By **Gerry J. Gilmore**
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — President Barack Obama signed the fiscal 2010 National Defense Authorization Act during a ceremony at the White House Oct. 28.

President Obama hailed the act, which contains \$680.2 billion in military budget authority, as transformational legislation that targets wasteful defense spending.

The president was accompanied by Vice President Joe Biden, congressional leaders and other senior officials, including Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates and Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

"There's still more waste we need to cut; there's still more fights that we need to win," President Obama said, noting he and Secretary Gates will continue to seek out unnecessary defense spending. President Obama said he has ended unnecessary no-bid defense contracts and signed bipartisan legislation to reform defense procurement practices so weapons systems' costs do not spin out of control.

"Even as we have made critical investments in equipment and weapons our troops do need, we're eliminating tens of billions of dollars in waste we don't need," President Obama said.

The legislation, the president said, saves billions by capping production of the Air Force's costly F-22 Raptor and terminating troubled, over-budget programs such as the Army's Future Combat System

and a new presidential helicopter.

"As commander in chief, I will always do whatever it takes to keep the American people safe to defend this nation," President Obama said. "That's why this bill provides for the best military in the history of the world."

The authorization act provides for a 3.4 percent pay raise for military members, improves care for wounded warriors and expands family leave rights.

Money also is budgeted to fund programs that address "real and growing threats," President Obama said. Such systems, he said, include the F-35 Lightning II joint strike fighter, the littoral combat ship and more helicopters and reconnaissance support for deployed U.S. forces.

The authorization act contains \$130 billion to fund overseas contingency operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and it also provides \$6.7 billion for thousands of all-terrain, mine-resistant, ambush-protected vehicles now arriving in Afghanistan.

"Secretary Gates and I both know that we can't build the 21st century military we need unless we fundamentally reform the way our defense establishment does business," President Obama said. He cited a Government Accountability Office report that found cost overruns totaling \$296 billion across 96 major defense projects over the last year. That amount of money, the president said, would have paid for troop salaries and military family

benefits for more than a year.

President Obama praised Secretary Gates and Admiral Mullen for their hard work in developing the 2010 defense budget.

"I want to thank, publicly, Bob Gates for his service to our nation," he said, and he added that Admiral Mullen has "provided wise counsel and stood with us in our efforts to initiate reform."

The authorization act, Secretary Gates said, is a bipartisan effort that's the result of countless hours and hard work on Capitol Hill.

"This bill is a necessary step toward reshaping the priorities of America's defense establishment and changing the way the Pentagon does business," Secretary Gates said at the signing ceremony. Work already is under way, he said, in development of the 2011 defense budget recommendation.

"And, I can ensure you it will focus on institutionalizing and accelerating many of the priorities and reforms embraced by this legislation," Secretary Gates said.

The annual defense authorization bill prepared for the president's approval or veto falls under the House and Senate armed services committees and is one of two bills required for the Defense Department to spend money. The other is the appropriations bill, crafted by the House and Senate appropriations committees, which provides funding to pay for the defense programs specified in the authorization bill.

McKinley: Guard's 'smart power' building partnership capacity worldwide

By **Army Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill**
National Guard Bureau

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — The National Guard is focused on helping the nation build partnership capacity worldwide, the chief of the National Guard Bureau told State Department officials Sept. 14.

Examples include the National Guard's Agribusiness Development Teams serving in Afghanistan and its State Partnership Program with 61 countries, Gen. Craig McKinley told an audience of State Department political advisors, known as PolAds.

"PolAds are on the front line of our efforts to develop a more cooperative and effective relationship between the State Department and the Department of Defense," said Andrew Shapiro, assistant secretary of state for political/military affairs. "As advisors to our military services, combatant commanders and other senior military commanders, PolAds play a critical role in supporting

See GUARD, page 15

The Skibird



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill
Gen. Craig McKinley (right), chief of the National Guard Bureau, meets with Richard Holbrooke, special representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, Sept. 14, 2009 during a visit to the State Department. The two discussed National Guard Agribusiness Development Teams at work in Afghanistan and National Guard training of civilian advisors for Afghanistan at the Indiana National Guard's Muscatatuck Urban Training Center.

Guard, from page 14

our national security strategy."

PolAds are an example of "smart power," Mr. Shapiro said.

"Hard power" is a term to describe the application of military force. "Soft power" describes other instruments of national power: economic, diplomatic, information. "Smart power" describes the idea of intelligently applying hard and soft power for maximum effect.

A day before the CNGB's State Department visit, Sen. Christopher "Kit" Bond said at the National Guard Association of the United States conference in Nashville, Tenn., "There is no entity in a better position to execute our nation's smart power than the National Guard."

"As chief of the National Guard Bureau, General McKinley has been a great proponent in supporting the whole-of-government approach to our national defense," Mr. Shapiro said.

Army Col. Martin Leppert, who is the coordinator the ADT program, joined General

McKinley to brief the PolAds on the work of the ADTs, which draw on the civilian-acquired skills as well as military training of citizen Soldiers and citizen Airmen.

"The uniqueness of the Agribusiness Development Teams is that (citizen Soldiers and citizen Airmen) bring their ... skill sets from the United States as farmers, as agribusiness men and women to Afghanistan, where it is so needed after 40 years of constant turmoil and war," Colonel Leppert said.

The ADT program assists the combatant commander and involves partnerships with the State Department, Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Agency for International Development, other federal agencies, state land grant universities, state farm bureaus and other state and local agencies.

"We're working directly with you every day to synchronize our operations overseas," Colonel Leppert told the State Department PolAds. "It's been a very good relationship."

Because of the ADTs, Afghanistan has entered into a bilateral relationship with

Nebraska, General McKinley said.

"There is a large Afghan population in Nebraska," General McKinley explained. "The University of Nebraska has a cultural center, and that relationship has been enduring for decades."

Afghan medics recently received stateside training.

"We're on the verge ... of codifying this relationship," General McKinley said. "We solicit good ideas for ... partnering wherever it makes sense."

Meanwhile, the National Guard State Partnership Program that emerged from the collapse of the former Eastern Bloc in the early 1990s now partners 61 countries with National Guard states.

"The (SPP) began with the collapse of the Berlin Wall," said John Finney, the NGB PolAd, emphasizing how the program supports combatant commanders and involves partnerships with the State Department and other agencies.

"The partnership works in three dimensions," he said, "military-to-military engagement, military-to-civilian engagement and civil security cooperation."

Combatant commanders and the Office of the Secretary of Defense building partnership capacity pay for the program, Mr. Finney said.

General McKinley also met privately with State Department officials during his visit, including Ambassador Richard Holbrooke, the special representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The two discussed the ADTs, National Guard training of civilian advisors for Afghanistan at the Indiana National Guard's Muscatatuck Urban Training Center and other issues.

'Year of the Air Force Family' Web site launched

By **1st Lt. Derek White**
Secretary of the Air Force
Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — Air Force officials have launched a new Web site to showcase the Year of the Air Force Family effort.

Airmen and their families can log on to <http://www.af.mil/yoaff/index.asp> to learn about AF-wide initiatives, monthly themes and programs, as well as contact local installation Airman Family and Readiness Centers to find out about local events and activities.

Earlier this year Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz and Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley designated July 2009 to July 2010 as the "Year of the Air Force Family," a year-long focus on Air Force programs highlighting the importance of, and commitment to, the entire Air Force family: all Airmen, married and single; spouses; children; Air Force civilians; extended families; and retirees.

"We will devote this year to identifying what we are doing right and what we need to do better to support the entire Air Force family, and to rekindle

See FAMILY, page 18

15

Christmas party, officer elections around the corner

By Retired Lt. Col. Thomas Noel
Alumni Representative

The 109th Airlift Wing Alumni Association’s Annual Summer Picnic was held Saturday, Aug. 8, at the pavilion at Stratton Air National Guard Base. About 100 ladies and gentlemen attended and had wonderful food and were able to get together with many friends. Many thanks to all the volunteers who cooked and made this get together a wonderful summer picnic and visitation of retirees.

Upcoming Events:
The Annual Alumni Christmas Party will be held Wednesday, Dec. 16, at Phelans Restaurant Banquet House Caterers at 1589 Route 9, Clifton Park, N.Y. The Christmas Party will start at 6 p.m. with a cash bar, and dinner will start at 7 p.m. Sign-up forms will be out soon; hope to see many of you at the Annual Alumni Christmas Party.
Election of Officers will take place in January.

The Firebird Association Reunion for 2010 is scheduled for April 11-14 in Galveston, Texas. They are trying to get approval from the U.S. Air Force representative at the Pentagon to allow the 109th Airlift Wing to fly an LC-130H ski-equipped Hercules down to Galveston for a static display during the reunion. If approved, I hope as many members of the Firebird Association from the 109th AW will be able to attend the 2010 Reunion. A space-available flight might be available. Hope to see many of you there.

A new Air Mobility Command (AMC) Web site offers space-available travel information. People planning to travel the AMC military travel system can now point their Web browsers to www.amc.af.mil/amctravel for the latest in AMC travel information. Space-available flights, also known as “military hops,” are a unique benefit to U.S. servicemembers, retirees and their families. Under the AMC travel program, unused seats on U.S. military and military-contracted aircraft are made available to non-duty passengers on a space-available basis.

Nearly 30 junior high boys were sponsored by the Saratoga County American Legion Posts for “2009 Boy’s State” held June 27 through July 3. The 109th AW Alumni Association sponsored two boys. Here are



The 109th Airlift Wing Alumni Association at their annual summer picnic on base Aug. 8.



Pictured are the boys of “2009 Boy’s State.” The 109th Alumni Association sponsored two of the boys.

their thank-you statements:

“Hi, my name is Samuel Sylvain, and I just wanted to thank you all for making it possible for me to go to Boy’s State. I learned a lot about how politics work and had the opportunity to be elected to a number of city positions and also Assemblyman. Had you not decided to sponsor me, I would never have had the opportunity to experience Boy’s State. Thank you very much for your generosity.”

“My name is Adam Kocienski, I am a 17-year-old junior attending Hoosic Valley High School. Over the summer I attended the American Legion Boy’s State College,

thanks to you. The staff and the Marines there couldn’t have been better. I had a great time. I learned about government and what it would be like to pursue a career in the United State military. I made many new friends and will remember this experience for the rest of my life. I strongly recommend that you continue to send juniors from the area to attend Boy’s State.”

Here is an article published about the 109th Airlift Wing. “The 109th Airlift Wing, based in Scotia near Albany, has one of the most u n u s u a l missions of

See ALUMNI, page 17

Firefighters complete training

By John Saupp
Base Firehouse

Summer has come and gone and once again we are in the fall/winter season.

In September, numerous traditional Guard and full-time firefighters completed the New York State Firefighter Safety and Survival Course along with the NYS Firefighter Assist & Search Team (FAST) course. This involved classroom training and lots of hands-on practical skills training to complete this rigorous and possible life-saving course. Self contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) skills along with rescue and survival techniques were performed during various scenarios based on real-world incidents. The firefighters accomplished this valuable training for their benefit

both here on base as well as in their local fire departments.

Firefighters have completed numerous required upgrade training courses. Many have received recognition for their high scores on their end of course exams. The fire department has received all new MSA self contained breathing apparatus. These will be placed on all fire department emergency response vehicles. Practical and classroom training is in progress for all firefighters on the proper use and familiarization on this new Air Force-wide air packs.

Congratulations to Staff Sgt. Steve Silver on the birth of his baby daughter. Also congratulations to Chris Menge on his promotion to technical sergeant and Leonard Munday on his promotion to senior airman. Finally we would like to wish Master Sgt. Beverley

Schoeffler the best on her new job assignment. Sergeant Schoeffler always did a great and professional job with all of the Civil Engineer Squadron training responsibilities. She was always willing to go above and beyond to assist with any training issues here at the fire department and will be missed.

National Fire Prevention Week was held this past Oct. 4-10. Make it a habit to practice fire safety every day.

Fires do not discriminate on social, economic or geographic factors. They can affect anyone at any time or place. So protect your families and yourself. Here are a few fire safety tips for you:

- Have a least one working smoke detector per floor of your residence
- Make sure they work and change the batteries twice a year when we adjust our

clocks in fall and spring

- Have a home escape plan so everyone in your family knows what to do and where to meet

- Stay low and go
- Never go back into a burning building once you have exited

- Have at least one working carbon monoxide detector in your home

- Have your furnace and chimney cleaned and serviced

- Never leave candles burning unattended

- Use caution when working in the kitchen and cooking

- Have and know how to use a home fire extinguisher

- Use caution with portable space heaters

Know the emergency phone number for your area (most are 911 but not all).

Alumni, from page 16

any National Guard unit in the country, summers in Greenland, winters in Antarctica. It is the only organization in the world, military or civilian, flying Lockheed LC-130 ski-equipped heavy cargo aircraft. That makes the 109th the air passenger and freight service for the National Science Foundation’s Office of Polar Programs. No U.S. commercial flight travels to Greenland. A June flight from New York carried scientists and construction workers from California, Ohio, Colorado, Iowa, Alaska and Washington. It also carried Lynne Cox, a writer and cold-water endurance swimmer who two years ago off Greenland’s coast swam a 1/4 mile in 28.8 degree water.” She has also swum down in the

Antarctic. I will tell you all about her in the next quarterly edition of the Skibird magazine.

The members of the 109th Airlift wing Alumni Association would like to send their condolences to the family of Joel M. Silvernail. Mr. Silvernail, 60, of County Highway 106, Amsterdam, Montgomery County, died on Saturday, Sept. 12, following a long illness. Born on October 23, 1948, he was the son of the late Stanley and Wilhelmina Phillips Silvernail. A lifelong area resident, Mr. Silvernail graduated in 1966 from Broadalbin High School. He later went on to attend Hudson Valley Community College and graduated in 1968 with a degree in civil engineering. He was employed with the NYS Department of Transportation for 35 years, retiring in 2003

as the Principle Engineering Technician. He also served with the New York Air National Guard for 32 years at Stratton ANGB with the 109th Airlift Wing, retiring in 2000 with the responsibility of a First Sergeant. It is with deep regret that I announce the passing of Phil Conti, the father of Tech. Sgt. Chad Conti, in April after a long illness. Please keep Sergeant Conti and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

The 109th AW Alumni Association members would like to welcome home many members of the 109th AW who spent a lot of time deployed to Afghanistan this year; thank you for your services for our country. There have been a few individuals who have retired in the past few months, including Chief Master Sgt. Jerry Stoddard and

Lt. Col. Richard VanPatten. If you know any more of them, please invite them to our meeting the third Wednesday of each month starting at 7:30 p.m. at the All Ranks Club. Their first year of membership of the Alumni Association is free if joining in the first year of their retirement. We always look forward to seeing new faces and new members at our monthly meetings.

The Skibird Magazine is also available on the 109thAW’s Web site at www.109aw.ang.af.mil. If for some reason you don’t receive the Skibird Magazine in the mail, you can read it on the 109th AW Web site.

Until the next quarterly issue of this Skibird Magazine publication, hope you all stay Happy, Healthy, Safe, Prosperous and “Think Winter.”

Helping you prepare

By Beverly Keating
Family Programs Coordinator

Prepare for what, you ask? The National Guard Family Program strives to make sure that you are prepared for whatever may be ahead of you, no matter what phase you are currently traveling through. Through training and education with the National Guard Family Program, Guard members and Guard families are fully prepared for that challenge, whether it is before, during or after deployment. Family Programs focuses on viable resources for our families. Here are a few of the many key resources available for support and assistance.

Joint Services Support - This portal, and its program sub-portals, is designed to give you a “one stop shopping” location where you can get important information on a variety of programs that have been created to support you. www.jointservicesupport.org

Military One Source — whether it’s help with child care, personal finances, emotional support during deployments, relocation information, or resources needed for special circumstances, Military OneSource is there for military personnel and their families... 24/7/365! www.militaryonesource.com

Military HOMEFRONT — is the

official Department of Defense Web site for reliable Quality of Life information designed to help troops and their families, leaders and service providers. Whether you live the military lifestyle or support those who do, you’ll find what you need! www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil

NACCRRRA — the National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies, is our nation’s leading voice for child care. We work with more than 700 state and local Child Care Resource and Referral agencies nationwide. These agencies help ensure that families in 99 percent of all populated ZIP codes in the United States have access to high-quality, affordable child care. To achieve our mission, we lead projects that increase the quality and availability of child care professionals, undertake research, and advocate child care policies that positively impact the lives of children and families. Call National Guard Child Care Program 1-888-642-2799 or www.naccrra.org

The Military Family Life Consultants — The Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) recognized an emerging need to provide information support to Service Members and families in addition to resident counseling services at installations. The Military Family Life Consultants (MFLC) Program uses licensed clinicians with

Masters Degrees and at least five years experience in Social Work, Counseling, or related clinical discipline. Consultants are trained on military specific topics including basic orientation to the deployment cycle, military culture and the chain of command. MFLC is a program designed to provide anonymous, confidential support to Service Members and their families especially those returning from deployments. MFLC Counselors can help you and your family problem solve with issues resulting from deployment, reunions, reintegration and other times of change including:

- Marriage and Relationship Issues
- Family Issues
- Stress and Anxiety
- Depression
- Grief and Loss
- Anger management
- Parent and child communication

Service Members and families are entitled to six prepaid, face-to-face counseling sessions. CALL: 1-888-755-9355 and visit the Web site at: www.mhngs.com.

Turbo Tap — Department of Defense’s official website providing information for servicemembers on transitioning from military service. This site is also supported by the Departments of Labor and Veterans Affairs. TurboTAP.org is intended to supplement the services offered by the Transition Assistance Offices and other groups. www.transitionassistanceprogram.com



Photo by Airman 1st Class Corey Hook

To showcase the Year of the Air Force Family, a new Web site has been created for Airmen and their families to learn about AF-wide initiatives

is not the platforms we operate or the technologies we employ, as good as they are,” General Schwartz said. “It is our Airmen and their families. The Air Force is a great place to work, live, and play. Our intent is to make it even better.”

July 17 through Oct. 4

Enlisted Promotions

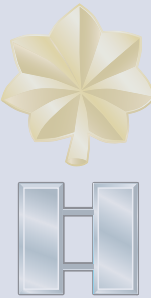
Senior Master Sergeant
Marsha Moberly – LRS

Master Sergeant
Scott Bailey – MDG
Joseph Casal – MXM
Rebecca Graham - MDG
Angelique Kaiser – AW
Richard Kirker – LRS
Faye Reynolds – LRS
Andrew Stearns – FSS
Melissa Straus – AW

Technical Sergeant
Patrick Born – AS
Damon George – SFS
Leslie Gould – AMXS
Joshua Green – AES
Roger Hightower – LRS
Christopher Orth – SFS
Andrew Wagner – CF
Ronald Valentine – MXM

Staff Sergeant
Steven Chandler – MXS
Michael Crisalli – SFS
Michael Ignecia – FSS
Joshua Menzies – SFS
Brian Monaghan – MXM
Richard Mitchell – FSS
Corey Palmatier – AS
Daniel Roth – AW
Tiffany Varney – SFS
Justin Wawrzonek – MXM
Randolph Welch – AES

Senior Airman
Gregory Durrant – SFS
Nichole Pease – CES
Dustin Place – AW
Linda Smith – LRS
Nicole Wasileski – LRS



Officer Promotions

Major
Nicholas Dean – FSS
Erik Srokowski – AS
Mario Zocchi – AS

Captain
Richard Legault – AS
Daniel Marchegiani - AS

Awards

Meritorious Service Medal
Lt Col Melanie Hathaway – JFHQ
Lt Col Richard Vanpatten – AS
Lt Col Gregory Virkler – AS
CMSgt Jason Taylor – AS
SMSgt Ronald Colasanti – JFHQ
SMSgt Joseph Pilinko – AMXS
TSgt Richard Carrier – MXM

Air Force Commendation Medal
MSgt John Dellio – CF
MSgt Craig Gronlund – CF
MSgt David Morrison – MDG
MSgt Donna Roper – FSS
MSgt Deborah Walter – MOF
MSgt Kenneth Williams – MOF
TSgt Lynette Bucci – CF
TSgt Walter Holden – MOF
TSgt Adrian Warnock-Graham – AW
A1C Dustin Place – AW

Air Force Achievement Medal
Maj Louie Benson – MDG
1LT John Shakeshaft – AES
CMSgt Tammy King – MOF
MSgt Jeffrey Archibald – MOF
MSgt Edward Groves – MOF
MSgt William Humphrey – MOF
MSgt Kevin Willoughby – MOF
TSgt Timothy Bouska – MOF
TSgt Jason Gardinier – MOF
TSgt Matthew Karns – MOF
TSgt Allen Lederhouse – MOF
TSgt Terra Martin – FSS
SrA Michael Crouse – AES
SrA Robert Harrington – CF
SrA Anastasios Mantzouris – LRS
A1C Sabrena Healey – OSF
A1C Jacqueline Reed – AS

David Stott
Scholarship Winner



File photo

Airman 1st Class
Darren Landerway
109th Security Forces Squadron

109th Airlift Wing
1 Air National Guard Road
Scotia, NY 12302-9752

**PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 47
Schenectady, NY**



Photo illustration by Staff Sgt. Brett Bouchard

Mission statement

Provide the most professional theatre combat forces, ready to rapidly deploy statewide, worldwide and pole to pole.

Vision statement

A united military organization of empowered individuals building on our proud tradition of serving country, state and community; leaning forward, ready to meet combat and peacetime challenges throughout the world.